

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. – 16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) A modular electrical connector assembly, comprising:
a front face with a plurality of openings for receiving mating terminals of a
complementary mating connector;

a plurality of connector modules each having a dielectric module housing and a plurality
of terminals for establishing electrical connections to the mating terminals, wherein the module
 housings each having a front face, and the front faces of the module housings together forming
the front face of the connector assembly;

a dielectric main housing to which the connector modules are attached;

a plurality of signal terminals that are arranged in the housing; and

at least one ground terminal with at least a first contact section and a first spring arm
section, with the first contact section having at least one first and second contact, wherein the
first and second contacts are mechanically coupled and wherein one of the contacts is open when
the connector assembly is in a finally mated position.

18. (original) The connector assembly as claimed in Claim 17, further
comprising:

a first guide means for mating interaction with a complementary mating guide means
on the complementary mating connector, wherein the guide means are arranged on an
upper face of the connector assembly.

19. (original) The connector assembly as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the first
guide means is attached to the main housing.

20. (original) The connector assembly as claimed Claim 17, further comprising:
a second guide means for mating interaction with a complementary mating guide means
of the mating connector, wherein the second guide means is arranged on a lower face

of the connector assembly, opposite the upper face.

21. (original) The connector assembly as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the module housings each have a receptacle for detachable attachment of the second guide means, and wherein the second guide means are attachable to the connector assembly at various positions.

22. (original) The connector assembly as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the second guide means comprises two or more separate guide elements.

23. – 24. (cancelled)

25. (original) The connector assembly as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the first and second guide means form a polarity-reversal protection or coding.

26. (original) The connector assembly as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the connector modules form a stack, and wherein the main housing is essentially L-shaped, and covers an upper face and a rear face of the stack.

27. (original) The connector assembly as claimed in claim 17, wherein the module housings each have at least a peg, and the main housing has a plurality of corresponding openings, with the pegs and the openings forming press fits.

28. – 34. (cancelled)

35. (previously presented) The connector assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second contacts are arranged on the first spring arm section.

36. (previously presented) The connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second contact are arranged colinearly or transversely offset.

37. (previously presented) The connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ground terminal is stamped and formed, and the first and second contact each comprise a stamped projection.

38. (previously presented) The connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first contact section comprises a third contact.

39. (previously presented) The connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first spring arm section has a first and second leg and has a recess between the first and the second leg.

40. (previously presented) The connector as claimed in claim 6, further comprising: a front head section on which the first and second legs are connected to one another, and the first contact is arranged on the head section, the second contact is arranged on the first leg, and the third contact is arranged on the second leg.

41. (previously presented) The connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least two of the first, second and third contacts are longitudinally offset.

42. (previously presented) The connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first spring arm section has a connecting section and a spring section with the spring section being inclined with respect to the connecting section.

43. (previously presented) The connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the signal terminals are arranged in a first plane, with one surface of the ground terminal faces the first plane, the ground terminal being resilient in a traverse direction with respect to the first plane, and the head section is curved in the direction of resiliency.

44. (previously presented) The connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ground terminal has a second spring arm section, a second contact section and a shield, with the shield being arranged between the first and second spring arm section.

45. (previously presented) The connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the signal terminals are arranged in pairs, and the distance of the signal terminals within each pair is less than or equal to the distance between signal terminals of adjacent pairs.